

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 22 with the following rewritten version:

-- An end 75b of each linking member 75 is pivotably pin-supported ~~is pivotably pin supported~~ to a lower end 73a of a sliding member 73. The other end 75a of each linking member 75 is pivotably pin-supported to a rotary end part 76b of a rotary member 76. When the rotary members 76 rotate in response to rotation of the rotary shafts 76a, which are fixedly supported at the rotational center, the linking members 75 take on a position as shown in Figure 4, and then one as shown in Figure 9. Accordingly, the sliding members 73 are pulled diagonally downward and diagonally upward. --.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 18 with the following rewritten version:

-- The fixing mechanism 33 welds the bag B to the strip S at the fixing point P2, which is lower and rearward of the holding point P1. As shown in Figure 5 and Figure 8, the fixing mechanism 33 principally includes a heater 33a, a pushing cylinder 33b, and a pressing body 33c. The heater 33a is a normally-energized heater with a maximum temperature of approximately 200° C. High-pressure air is supplied to the pushing cylinder 33b from the abovementioned high-pressure air supply unit via an open-close valve. A head 63 can be raised diagonally by operating the pushing cylinder 33b. The head 63 supports a tip part of the pressing body 33c via a linking member 62. Accordingly, the reciprocating motion of the head 63 of the pushing cylinder 33b is converted to the swinging motion of the pressing body 33c. The rear end part of the pressing body 33c is pivotably pin supported to a fixed shaft 61, and swings up to a predetermined angle so that the tip part of the pressing body 33c contacts and separates apart from the heater 33a (partially shown ~~refer to the dotted lines~~ in Figure 8).

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